

BIG SANDY NEWS.

Aut inveniam viam, aut faciam.

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M. F. CONLEY, Publisher

GREAT DAY

For Democracy Was Last Saturday.

2500 Visitors Were in Louisa to Enjoy the Speaking and Barbecue.

The Democratic barbecue given in this city last Saturday was the first affair of the kind ever held in Lawrence. Although but little time had been allowed for advertising the demonstration the occasion was made memorable by the presence of at least twenty-five hundred people, men, women and children. The hosts of Democracy began to come to Louisa as early as Friday. Early on Saturday morning they came over the hill, around the hill, up the lane and over the bridge from the Point and Fort Gay and from all over Wayne county. The 7:30 train brought a big crowd, and the 9:20 from up Sandy was chock full and running over.

The speakers had arrived on the early train and almost as soon as the second train had discharged its living freight the program for the day was begun. The Louisa brass band, neat and nice in its bright uniform, had met all trains and paraded the streets, attracting and pleasing large crowds. About ten o'clock the band was stationed in the music stand in the public square, and this formed the rallying point of the big crowd. The Court House could not have contained one-fourth of the people, so the speaking was made from the stand. The first speaker was Tim Scanlon, a well known citizen and prominent Democrat of Huntington. Mr. Scanlon was introduced to his hearers by H. C. Sullivan. The Huntington gentleman lacks much of being a physical giant, but he is short of nothing when it comes to a knowledge of public men and matters. With this knowledge is the ability to tell an audience in a very effective way what he knows of public affairs, current politics and the political history of the times. Mr. Scanlon is a business man and manufacturer, but he is a manufacturer who has regard for the men he employs. He told how he conducted his business—how his men worked, what they were paid etc., and what he said along this line certainly caught the crowd. He spoke more than an hour and was listened to with close attention, punctuated with hearty cheers, until he had finished.

At the close of Mr. Scanlon's fine speech it was announced that a recess would be taken for dinner. The people were told where the dinner would be served and how it would be distributed, and quietly and without the least disorder the hungry multitude followed directions. There had been some doubt and misgiving on part of many regarding the barbecue part of this great meeting. "There won't be half enough," "It won't be fit to eat," "They can't wait on half the people," and so forth. Prophets of evil all. Not one of these dire conditions obtained. Here is how it was done: When a famous old darkey cook was asked how she cooked a rabbit so well she said "First catch yer rabbit." This sage direction was heeded by the committee on food. It purchased five big, fat beavers. These were carefully dressed and as carefully cooked by steam at the Canning Factory, and nicer meat you never ate. Five hundred loaves of fresh bread were bought, and this beef and bread, with sweet potatoes and good coffee and pickles in abundance made up a menu good enough for anybody. Thousands of wooden trays, such as you find at the grocers, were provided, and into each of these trays were put a big slice of beef, bread, potatoes and a pickle. All this good food had been carried to a stand on Main Cross street, near Jones' photograph shop. Here stood active, efficient servers, and as the crowd passed along every man, woman and child who came received one of these full trays and a pint tin cup of steaming coffee. There was not the slightest confusion or disorder, and zone went away hungry. How's

that for a Big Sandy Democratic barbecue?

Dinner being over and the multitude rested and fed, the blare of trumpet and the roll of drum called the people to a feast of reason and a flow of soul. On the platform stood the handsome figure of Robert Franklin, the famous Prosecuting Attorney of Franklin county, the old-time, all-time champion of a pure Democracy, the eloquent, fearless advocate of the great common people.

He had come from his Frankfort home to speak to the people of the hill country, and right nobly did he perform his pleasing duty. He was introduced by G. W. Castle and before he had spoken a half dozen sentences the people were his by right of capture. What a captivating speaker he is. Rich of voice, expressive of countenance and apt of gesture he seems an orator to the manner born. He told of the intricacies of the tariff, of the influence it had caused the people; of the inconsistencies of Modern Republicanism, and for each theme he had his pat story and illustration, each told in "Bob's" own inimitable way. If "Bob" Franklin should be a candidate for a State office the men who heard him would fall over themselves to get to vote for him, and the cry for female suffrage would rend the air.

At the conclusion of Mr. Franklin's telling and winning speech Mr. Castle introduced Charles Newell, of Maysville. Mr. Newell is a townsman of Jim Kehoe, the people's Democratic candidate for Congress from this district, and it was mainly of him that Mr. Newell spoke. They had known each other from boyhood, and Mr. Kehoe and his cause had a sufficient champion. He did not speak long, but in the short time he occupied the stand, Newell did well for the cause for which he came from the Blue Grass to the valley of the Sandy.

The conclusion of Judge Newell's speech was the signal for the dispersal of the big, good natured, good humored crowd. So ended the first barbecue given, as far as we know in the good old county of Lawrence.

Bits of Barbecue.

When day dawned Saturday the sky was overcast with clouds, but the rising sun of Nature cleared them and brightened and warmed the earth. So, too, will the rising sun of Democracy clear the murky political skies and warm and brighten the whole country.

Autumn never brought a lovelier day. Not too cool, not too warm. Just right. Did you ever see a nicer crowd? Well looking, well dressed, well mannered.

The visitors from the Blue Grass were loud in praises of our barbecue and our people.

The meeting of last Saturday will produce good results for the cause. It brought out the wheelhorses and the leadhorses of the party as well as the first voters, and to all it proved of great value.

To the committee who conducted the barbecue to such a happy ending; to those who killed and carved, and to those who waited on the crowd, and to all who in any way helped to make the day a success, all thanks are due.

Church Papers Combine.

The Methodist Advocate, the official organ of the Methodists of West Virginia, and the Central Methodist, the official organ of the Methodists of Kentucky, have been united and will be published in Frankfort, Ky. Rev. Waller Q. Vreeland is the editor in chief.

NARROW ESCAPE.

Small Son of Will Ferguson Saved by Rare Presence of Mind.

The following account of a narrow escape from a sudden and horrible death will be read with interest by Louisians. The boy's father and mother were natives of this city, where they have many friends and relatives. The story is by the Catlettsburg correspondent of the Ashland Independent:

"Chester Ferguson, the 13-year-old son of William Ferguson, agent for the Adams Express Company in this city, had a narrow escape from death this morning when an engine and seven freight cars passed over his body, but without touching him. Few persons have been known to have such an experience as this lad underwent. On his way to school, Chester crossed the 'fill' over the Catletts creek culvert, a short distance below the C. & O. depot, and when about half way over, local freight No. 99, flashed into sight around the curve, enroute west. Stepping onto the other track out of the way of No. 99, Chester tripped and fell headlong into the middle of the track, and at the same instant there was a rush, a whirl of wheels, the rattle of a great iron monster, and the engine of freight No. 88, east-bound, was passing over him. Seven cars followed in the wake of the big engine, and until the very last had passed, the boy lay quite still, hugging the cross ties as closely as his strength would permit. Only Chester's presence of mind saved him from the horrible death of being ground to pieces beneath the merciless wheels, for, had he made one single attempt to rise, the result would have been serious. As it was, the only evidence visible of the dreadful accident were the boy's white face, his shortness of breath, and a slight cut on the shoe.

THE ROOSTER

This Year Will be in the Second Column on Kentucky Ballots.

The attention of all Democrats is called to the fact that the Democratic column on the Kentucky ballots this year will occupy second place from the left side. For some time past the rooster headed the first column, but on account of the State having gone Republican last fall the log cabin will have first place. Democrats have been used to voting in the first column and it will be well for them to notice the change and call the attention of their brethren to the change.

Masonic Grand Bodies.

The Grand Lodge and the Grand Chapter were both in session in Louisville this week. The attendance upon both bodies was the largest in history. C. C. Hill is representing Apperson lodge, and H. B. Hewlett is the delegate of the Louisa Chapter. A. J. Conley is attending the lodge and chapter as a visitor.

Will Vote for Bryan.

Jim Cooksey, formerly of this county, and who has been a Republican in whom there was neither vacillancy nor shadow of turning was here recently. He says the men where he is engaged in Ohio number 231, and of this number all but 13 will vote for Bryan. And Jim is one of the 218.

Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Burns went to Floyd county last Monday, where they will visit part of their numerous kindred and friends. Their Louisa friends hope that the visit may add greatly to the health and strength of this esteemed couple.

The Ohio Mechanics' Institute, a school of technical science in which Victor Munsey, well known here, holds a professorship, has been enriched by a gift of half a million dollars. Mrs. Mary Emery, of Cincinnati, was the donor.

GEOLOGICAL REPORT

Just Issued by U. S. Department Covers Local Territory.

Readers of the News will remember that at various times during the summer of 1907 we called attention to the work of the United States surveying and geological corps in this county and in other parts of this section of Kentucky. The corps was in charge of W. C. Phalen, of Washington, and the work was done at the joint cost of the United States and Kentucky.

Kentucky's mineral wealth is nowhere manifested so notably as in what is termed by the geological survey the Kenova quadrangle. This quadrangle covers 938 square miles, and while a small part of Wayne county, West Virginia and the Southern part of Lawrence county, Ohio, is included in it, by far the greater part lies in Kentucky, for it includes the whole of Boyd county, the larger part of Lawrence and parts of Greenup and Elliott counties.

It takes its name from the small town of Kenova, a name coined by combining the abbreviations of the three States named. The town lies at the confluence of the Big Sandy and Ohio rivers. The Kentucky and its portions are sometimes called "Hanging Rock" region from an outcrop of massive rock at Hanging Rock on the Ohio, a few miles below Ashland.

W. C. Phalen, of the Geological Survey has just issued a bulletin descriptive of the Kenova quadrangle. The quadrangle, he says, forms part of a much larger area, in which, during the last three or four decades, the mining of coal and the mining and smelting of iron ores have been actively carried on. The iron ores of the Hanging rock region of Kentucky were of great importance in the seventies and eighties, but the introduction of cheaper ores from Alabama and the Lake Superior region and the gradual disappearance of the ores on which the charcoal furnaces depended have caused a decline in the iron industry of the district, and no furnaces using local ores are now in operation.

But, though of little value at present, the iron ores may be more important in the future, for when the cheaper ores now in the market become scarce and prices advance, the higher grades of ores in the Kenova quadrangle will be worked. The fact that similar thin beds of ore have been successfully worked in Europe is significant. During the last five years the mines of the quadrangle have yielded approximately 1,800,000 short tons of coal, and the coal mining in the region is still active.

The State Inspector of Mines of Kentucky has also reported a production of cannel coal and coke. Most of the mines are small, equipment is simple, and nearly all the local railroad lines. The cannel coal is shipped to places along the mined at Boghead and Hunnewell, is however, shipped abroad for use as a gas enricher, and some of the coal of the Torchlight mine is shipped to Pacific coast points.

The quadrangle contains also valuable deposits of clays suitable for a variety of purposes, but these deposits are at present little developed. The amount of available material is, however, large, and the clay industry of the region should have a promising future.

Mr. Phalen's report gives details in regard to the distribution, character, extent and development of the coals, clays, limestones and building stones, iron ores, oil and gas and other mineral resources of the quadrangle and references to previous publications containing information about the area.

To New York for Treatment.

Russell Millinder has gone to New York city to be treated for the peculiar form of paralysis which has afflicted him. Dr. Pest, a physician of prominence, and under his guidance the young man will be treated by the best specialists in the city. The boy's friends here will be glad to hear of Russell's ultimate recovery. He is a bright young fellow, and with a sound physique he would make a useful man.

AWFUL TRAGEDY

Five Perish in Fire at Paintsville.

George Stafford and Family Lose Their Lives in a Burning Residence.

Sunday night about 10 o'clock, while many of our citizens were just retiring for sleep, and many more resting in peaceful slumbers, the stillness was suddenly broken by the alarm of fire and the scene of quietude and rest was turned immediately into one of excitement and grief. Citizens rushed into the streets to behold what was truly the saddest affair ever witnessed in the town of Paintsville.

The angry flames rushed heavenward, carrying with them the shrieks of helpless sufferers, making a spectacle not soon to be forgotten by our people.

The fire was in the old dwelling at the corner of East and First streets, near the M. E. Church South, occupied by Mr. George Stafford and family and an invalid lady named Mrs. Liza Lavender. It seems to have had its origin in the kitchen, but no one knows definitely. The family was asleep and when they awoke they found their escape cut off by the flames as they leaped from room to room and up the stairway to the second floor. The stairway led up from the rear of the building, and when once on fire escape was impossible. The father, one son and two daughters (young women) rushed to a half window in front of the building, but failed to leap, whether from excitement or suffocation, will never be known. Side by side they met death in the most horrible form imaginable. The sisters, when their bodies were recovered, were found to have died clasped in each other's arms.

Mrs. Stafford in a leap for life, leaped to death from a second story window, and of a family of seven only two (sons) survive, who in some miraculous manner escaped the awful fate.

Mrs. Lavender, the aged invalid

lady, whose room was on the first floor, had not yet retired and discovered the fire just in time to attempt to make her escape through the front window of her room. By this time help had arrived and she was assisted to safety, aside from the excitement, was uninjured.

The scene was awful. Women and children wringing their hands and crying and rushing through the streets. The roar of the flames, the grief of the sons who escaped, their words, "We alone are left," was almost unbearable. The tears in the eyes of strong men burst through and ran down their cheeks. The old time truth was vividly impressed, "Life is uncertain and death is sure."

The son who perished in the flames was a member of the public school and one of the girls having passed the grade of the public school was enrolled in the Sandy Valley Seminary. To show their respect and heartfelt sympathies, both schools adjourned Monday and proclaimed a day of mourning.

The dead are George Stafford, aged 60; Fannie Stafford, aged 18; Neva Stafford, aged 16; Charles Stafford, aged 8; Mrs. George Stafford, aged 59.

The rescued are Ballard Stafford, aged 22; Frank Stafford, aged 16; Liza Lavender, an old lady.

George Stafford, was known to many people. He was a brother of Frank Stafford, of Catlettsburg, and was a well known and highly esteemed citizen of Johnson county and Paintsville. The horrible catastrophe has cast a pall of gloom over Paintsville and the surrounding country, and is the sole topic of conversation. Business for the greater part of the day was well nigh suspended.

Mr. Stafford was a son of James Stafford, a blind man who sometimes visits at Louisa.

The Medical Society.

The Lawrence County Medical Society held its monthly meeting in this city last Monday. The following doctors were present: C. C. Wheeler, J. O. Moore, Scott Hayes, Will Hayes, L. H. York, A. W. Bromley, L. B. Dean and F. D. Marcum. Dr. Moore read a very good paper on Eclampsia, and the usual routine business was transacted.

The next meeting of the society will be held on the third Monday in November, at this place, when arrangements will be made for a banquet. To this function one or more distinguished physicians will be invited who will address the Society upon topics of interest.

Fifteen to Five.

Louisa wrestled and punched and kicked with a Huntington squad last Saturday, each trying to get an inflated bladder oftenest to a mark called a goal. Huntington got there more times by ten than Louisa and won the game. They do say that if Junior Lackey hadn't trumped his partner's ace things would have been different.

After the battle some girls searched the field for souvenirs, and one young lady collected enough hair to stuff a sofa pillow.

Ashland District Conference.

The Ashland District Conference will convene Wednesday, November 14, 1 o'clock p. m., at Eden, Ky. Missionary Institute will be in conjunction with said conference, also Sunday School and Epworth League Conference. Come prepared to remain over Sunday and until the work is thoroughly completed.

B. F. Gosling, P. E.

More Light.

As Louisa is one of the dustiest places in the country, and water plentiful and moderately cheap, so is it the darkest town in the country, and gas plentiful at one-fortieth of a cent a foot. Near the top of the grade you can almost hang your hat on the dark. From the Southern Methodist Church to R. T. Burns' there is one street light, and that a private one. Around the depot you can cut the black with a knife. The lights there have long since ceased to light. Looking down Lock Avenue is like looking into a dark cellar at midnight. What's the matter?

Called Suddenly.

Elijah Prewitt, a well known resident on the Tug side of the Point, died very suddenly last Saturday morning. He was in his usual health early in the day, and the news of his death came to his son, James, while the latter was in Louisa attending the barbecue. Mr. Prewitt was about 84 years of age. The family lived near the mouth of Rockcastle.

Buck Crutcher, who some time ago bought what is known as the widow Burchett property on Perry street, is having the house repaired and improved. A new roof has been put on and a veranda built, extending the whole length of the front of the house. When finished the house will be occupied by Mr. Crutcher.

Mrs. Eldridge Short died in Catlettsburg a few days ago of consumption. The body was taken to the old home where it was buried last Tuesday. Mrs. Short was the daughter of Chas. Jones, formerly of Cat's fork, and who died suddenly in Catlettsburg a year ago.